

Appl. No. 09/438,431
Amdt. Dated September 15, 2004
Reply to Office action of June 15, 2004
Attorney Docket No. P12817-US1
EUS/J/P/04-3029

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Canceled)
2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5 [[1]], further comprising the step of configuring said end device according to the access capability of the selected at least one of said one or more access network-terminating devices.
3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5 [[1]], wherein said predetermined factors of said one or more access network-terminating devices comprise cost of access, coverage area, bandwidth delay, priority level and Quality of Service (QoS).
4. (Canceled)
5. (Currently Amended) A method of selectively accessing an Internet Protocol (IP) network utilizing an end device that is coupled to an indirect interface capable of communicating with one or more network-terminating devices, each said network-terminating device being coupled to an associated access network that is further coupled to the IP network, the method comprising the steps of:
 - determining whether the end device has access to said IP network;
 - confirming the availability of said one or more access network-terminating devices;
 - determining the access capability of each of said one or more access network-terminating devices and ranking said access capability according to one or more predetermined factors;
 - comparing the determined access capability for each of said one or more access network-terminating devices to said access network with a preferred access capability being associated with said end device;

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selecting at least one of said one or more access network-terminating devices having the highest ranking access capability to provide an optimum connection between said end device and said access network;

~~The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:~~

subsequent to connecting to said at least one of said one or more access network-terminating devices, polling said indirect interface to detect if one or more new access network-terminating devices are available to said end device;

determining an access capability for each of the detected one or more new access network-terminating devices; and

comparing said access capability for each of the detected one or more new access network-terminating devices with said preferred access capability of said end device to determine whether said detected one or more new access network-terminating devices can improve the current connection of said end device to said network.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, further comprising the steps of:

selecting one of the one or more new access network-terminating devices based on the comparison; and

configuring said end device according to the access capability of the selected one of the one or more new access network-terminating devices.

7 - 8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 11 [[7]], wherein said predetermined factors include cost of access, coverage area, and Quality of service (QoS).

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10. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 11 ~~[[7]]~~, wherein said preferred predetermined factors include one or more of: cost of access, coverage area, and QoS.

11. (Currently Amended) A system for providing selective access to an Internet Protocol (IP) network comprising:

an indirect interface coupled to an end device for connecting said end device to at least one access network-terminating device;

an access network connected to said at least one access network-terminating device, wherein said at least one access network-terminating device is coupled to an associated access network that in turn is connected to said IP network;

means incorporated in said end device for:

detecting said at least one access network-terminating device;

determining an access capability of said at least one access network-terminating device to said IP network, said access capability comprising one or more predetermined factors;

comparing said one or more predetermined factors to preferred predetermined factors associated with said end device; and

selecting at least one preferred access network-terminating device according to said comparison; and.

~~The system of claim 8, further comprising:~~

means for polling to detect if one or more new access network-terminating devices are available to said end device;

means for determining an access capability for each of the one or more new access network-terminating devices if detected; and

means for comparing said access capability for each of the one or more detected new access network-terminating devices with a said preferred access capability of said end device to determine whether said detected new access network-terminating devices can improve the current connection to said network.

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12. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 11, further comprising means for configuring the end device according to the access capability of the selected one of the one or more new access network-terminating devices.

13. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 12, wherein said end device is a cellular telephone.

14. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 13, wherein said cellular telephone includes, as a direct interface, means for communicating over a cellular air interface and includes, as said indirect interface, means for communicating over a Bluetooth air interface, wherein said Bluetooth air interface is associated with each of said access network terminating devices.

15. (Currently Amended) An end device for connecting to an Internet Protocol (IP) network, comprising:

means for storing a preferred access capability for said end device, said access capability comprising predetermined factors;

means for communicating with at least one access network-terminating device over an indirect interface, each said access network-terminating device being communicably coupled to an associated access network and each said access network being communicably coupled with said IP network;

means for comparing said stored preferred access capability to an access capability of each of said at least one access network-terminating devices;

said end device having means for selecting a preferred access network-terminating device, according to said comparison, to provide an optimum connection to said access network; wherein said access capability comprises predetermined factors and said preferred network-terminating device is determined according to said predetermined factors;

means for polling to detect if one or more new access network-terminating devices are available to said end device;

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means for determining an access capability for each of the one or more new access network-terminating devices; and

means for comparing said access capability for each of the one or more detected new access network-terminating devices with said preferred access capability of said end device to determine whether said detected new access network-terminating devices can improve the current connection to said network.

16. (Currently Amended) The end device of claim 15, wherein said indirect interface is a Bluetooth interface and ~~is associated with said access network terminating devices.~~

17. (Currently Amended) The end device of claim 15, wherein said predetermined factors compare one or more of: cost of access, coverage area, bandwidth delay, priority level and Quality of Service (QoS). ~~access network-terminating devices provide a communication link with the Internet.~~

18. (Previously Presented) The end device of claim 15, further comprising means for communicating over a direct interface.

19. (Original) The end device of claim 18, wherein said end device can communicate simultaneously over said direct interface and said indirect interface.

20. (Original) The end device of claim 18, wherein said direct interface is a cellular interface.

21 - 25. (Canceled)